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10/655,360	09/04/2003	Yoshiaki Sakita	MAT-8459US	1580

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EXAMINER

BARNES, CRYSTAL J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2121

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/655,360	Applicant(s) SAKITA ET AL.	
	Examiner Crystal J. Barnes	Art Unit 2121	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4 Sept 2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The following is a Non-Final Office Action upon examination of the above-identified application on the merits. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

#### ***Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. The examiner has considered the information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 4 September 2003.

#### ***Drawings***

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: reference number 39 in figures 3 and 11, reference number 339 in figure 22 and reference number 309 in figure 23 are not mentioned in the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or

amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Specification*

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:  
selector unit 1C is not shown in figures 15 and 17A as mentioned on page 33 line 1.  
Appropriate correction is required.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-7, 10-16, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1 to Gardner.

As per claim 1, the Gardner reference discloses a cloth washer comprising: selector means (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16") for selecting one of a plurality of basic operating programs (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") preprogrammed individually with specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B"); special operating program setting means (see

page 2 [0034], "favorite option 40") for establishing a special operating program ("favorite setting") by correcting (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instructions") at least one of the specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instruction"), rinsing operation and spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0033], "instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one selected (see page 2 [0034], "entire washing and drying cycle") by said selector means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions"); and control means (see page 2 [0024-0026], "control unit 15, washer control unit 15A, dryer control unit 15B") for controlling said washing operation ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation ("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") according to said special operating program ("favorite setting") established by said special operating program setting means ("favorite option 40").

As per claim 2, the Gardner reference discloses said selector means ("user interface 16") is capable of selecting a predetermined one (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instruction") of said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 3, the Gardner reference discloses further comprising input means (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16 ... dials, buttons, and switches") for accepting entry of selection information ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B") for selecting one ("wash cycle instruction") of said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 4, the Gardner reference discloses said input means ("user interface 16") comprises a touch-sensitive panel (see page 2 [0024], "touch screen display").

As per claim 5, the Gardner reference discloses further comprising input means ("user interface 16") for accepting entry of correction information (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instruction, provide alternative instructions") for correcting at least one of the specifications of said washing operation ("wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 6, the Gardner reference discloses said input means ("user interface 16") comprises a touch-sensitive panel (see page 2 [0024], "touch screen display").

As per claim 7, the Gardner reference discloses further comprising display means (see page 2 [0024], "display, touch screen display ... user output") for displaying the specifications of said washing operation ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation ("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") preprogrammed for said one selected by said selector means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions"), and said correction information "modify the instruction, provide alternative instructions") entered through said input means ("user interface 16").

As per claim 10, the Gardner reference discloses said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") are further preprogrammed individually with specification of drying operation ("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B"), and said special operating program setting means ("favorite option 40") establishes said special operating



program "favorite setting") by correcting ("modify the instructions, provide alternative instructions") at least one of the specifications of said washing operation ("wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B"), said spin-dry operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions"), and said drying operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions").

As per claim 11, the Gardner reference discloses a control system comprising a cloth washer (see page 2 [0024, 0026], "washer 12, combination washer/dryer") and a first terminal (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16") for controlling said cloth washer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer"), wherein said first terminal ("user interface 16") comprises: selector means (see page 2 [0024], "dials, buttons, and switches, touch screen display, user input") for selecting one of a plurality of basic operating programs (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") individually preprogrammed with specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") to be performed by said cloth washer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer"); special operating program setting means (see page 2

[0034], "favorite option 40") for establishing a special operating program ("favorite setting") by correcting (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instructions") at least one of the specifications of said washing operation (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation and said spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0033], "instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one selected (see page 2 [0034], "entire washing and drying cycle") by said selector means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions"); and transmitter means (see page 2 [0035], "button or other input") for transmitting a information representing the specifications of said special operating program ("favorite setting") established by said special operating program setting means ("favorite option 40"), and further wherein said cloth washer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer") comprises: receiver means (see page 2 [0024], "control unit 15, washer control unit 15A") for receiving the information representing the specifications of said special operating program ("favorite setting") transmitted by said transmitter means ("button or other input") provided in said first terminal ("user interface 16C"); and control means ("control unit 15, washer control unit 15A") for controlling said washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature

20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") according to the information representing the specifications of said special operating program ("favorite setting") received by said receiver means ("control unit 15, washer control unit 15A").

As per claim 12, the Gardner reference discloses said first terminal ("user interface 16C") further having input means ("user input") for accepting entry of selection information ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B") for selecting one ("wash cycle instruction") of said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 13, the Gardner reference discloses said input means ("user interface 16") comprises a touch-sensitive panel (see page 2 [0024], "touch screen display").

As per claim 14, the Gardner reference discloses said first terminal ("user interface 16") further having input means ("user input") for accepting entry of correction information (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instruction, provide alternative instructions") for correcting at least one of the specifications of said

washing operation ("wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 15, the Gardner reference discloses said input means ("user interface 16") comprises a touch-sensitive panel (see page 2 [0024], "touch screen display").

As per claim 16, the Gardner reference discloses said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") are further preprogrammed individually with specification of drying operation ("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B"), and said special operating program setting means ("favorite option 40") establishes said special operating program "favorite setting") by correcting ("modify the instructions, provide alternative instructions") at least one of the specifications of said washing operation ("wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B"), said spin-dry operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions"), and said drying operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions").

As per claim 20, the Gardner reference discloses a dish washer-dryer comprising: selector means (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16") for selecting one of a plurality of basic operating programs (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") individually preprogrammed with specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and drying operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B"); special operating program setting means (see page 2 [0034], "favorite option 40") for establishing a special operating program ("favorite setting") by correcting (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instructions") at least one of the specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instruction"), rinsing operation and drying operation (see page 2 [0033], "instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one selected (see page 2 [0034], "entire washing and drying cycle") by said selector means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions"); and control means (see page 2 [0024-0026], "control unit 15, washer control unit 15A, dryer control unit 15B") for controlling said washing operation ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature

20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said drying operation ("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") according to said special operating program ("favorite setting") established by said special operating program setting means ("favorite option 40").

As per claim 21, the Gardner reference discloses a control system comprising a dish washer-dryer (see page 2 [0024, 0026], "washer 12, combination washer/dryer") and a second terminal (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16") for controlling said dish washer-dryer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer"), wherein said second terminal ("user interface 16") comprises: selector means (see page 2 [0024], "dials, buttons, and switches, touch screen display, user input") for selecting one of a plurality of basic operating programs (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") individually preprogrammed with specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and drying operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") to be performed by said dish washer-dryer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer"); special operating program setting means (see page 2 [0034], "favorite option 40") for establishing a

special operating program ("favorite setting") by correcting (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instructions") at least one of the specifications of said washing operation (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation and said drying operation (see page 2 [0033], "instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one selected (see page 2 [0034], "entire washing and drying cycle") by said selector means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions"); and transmitter means (see page 2 [0035], "button or other input") for transmitting a information representing the specifications of said special operating program ("favorite setting") established by said special operating program setting means ("favorite option 40"), and further wherein said dish washer-dryer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer") comprises: receiver means (see page 2 [0024], "control unit 15, washer control unit 15A") for receiving the information representing the specifications of said special operating program ("favorite setting") transmitted by said transmitter means ("button or other input") provided in said second terminal ("user interface 16C"); and control means ("control unit 15, washer control unit 15A") for controlling said washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation (see page 2

[0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said drying operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") according to the information representing the specifications of said special operating program ("favorite setting") received by said receiver means ("control unit 15, washer control unit 15A").

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1 to Gardner in view of US Pub. No. 2002/0087351 A1 to Jo.

As per claim 8, the Gardner reference does not expressly disclose said plurality of basic operating programs are individually preprogrammed with washing



time for said washing operation, number of rinse cycles for said rinsing operation and spin-dry time for said spin-dry operation.

The Jo reference discloses

(see page 1 [0005], "The typical washing machine has various washing course programs in its memory, each of which automatically sets a washing time, rinsing time, agitation or spinning time, etc. when selected by a user. The programmed settings are appropriate to the amount of clothes and cloth material being washed in order to prevent damage to the clothes as well as washing more effectively.")

(see page 1 [0006], "The washing course programs usually include settings for a spinning wash, a high-concentrated wash, a first laundering, a pulsating wash, a clothes-soaking wash, a wool-fabric wash, etc. Thus, a user can wash clothes automatically simply by selecting the washing course program he or she wants.")

(see page 2 [0026], "The washing condition information may include agitation settings, for example, gentlest, medium-gentle, medium, medium-heavy, heavy, heaviest, etc., water level, a type of washing program (for example, agitation or spinning wash, high-concentrated wash, a first laundering, pulsating wash, clothes-soaking wash, etc.), washing time (for example, 10 minutes-2 hours), the number of

washing repetitions, the number of agitation or spinning cycles, agitation or spinning time, the number of rinsing repetitions, etc.")

(see page 2 [0028], "... the washing machine 40 can measure the load to be washed and automatically select the optimal washing course program, washing time, the number of washing repetitions, the number of agitation or spin cycles, time of each agitation or spin cycle, the number of rinsing repetitions, etc. based on the measured load.")

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the washer instruction and dryer instruction taught by the Gardner reference with the various washing course programs taught by the Jo reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the washer instruction and dryer instruction with the various washing course programs to illustrate the typical washing condition information of a washing machine.

As per claim 9, the Gardner reference does not expressly disclose said plurality of basic operating programs are individually preprogrammed with strength of swirling water in said washing operation and said rinsing operation, and spinning speed in said spin-dry operation.

The Jo reference discloses

(see page 2 [0026], "The washing condition information may include agitation settings, for example, gentlest, medium-gentle, medium, medium-heavy, heavy, heaviest, etc., water level, a type of washing program (for example, agitation or spinning wash, high-concentrated wash, a first laundering, pulsating wash, clothes-soaking wash, etc.), washing time (for example, 10 minutes-2 hours), the number of washing repetitions, the number of agitation or spinning cycles, agitation or spinning time, the number of rinsing repetitions, etc.")

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the washer instruction and dryer instruction taught by the Gardner reference with the various washing course programs taught by the Jo reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the washer instruction and dryer instruction with the various washing course programs to illustrate the typical washing condition information of a washing machine.

10. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1 to Gardner in view of USPN 6,983,628 B2 to Cho.

As per claim 17, the Gardner reference does not expressly disclose further comprising a network for connecting between said transmitter means and said receiver means.

The Cho reference discloses

(see column 6 lines 31-59, "The washing machine ... includes ... a key input section 23 for a user's input of various kinds of operation commands and setting for functions of the washing machine, a display section 24 for displaying the functions and operation state of the washing machine, a flash memory, i.e., flash ROM 25, for storing an operation algorithm of the washing machine and related information of the washing machine including a use history of the washing machine, an interface section 26 for performing a data modulation so as to enable data exchange with an external device connected according to the RS-232C communication standard such as a personal computer (PC) 31, and a system microcomputer 27 for controlling the drive microcomputer 22 so that the washing operation corresponding to the user's operation command inputted through the key input section 23 is performed, controlling the display section 24 so that the corresponding operation state or function is displayed, and storing in the flash ROM 25 the related information of the washing machine transmitted through the

drive microcomputer 22 or data transmitted from the PC 31 through the interface section 26 or uploading information stored in the flash ROM 25 to the PC 31. The washing machine may further include a modem, directly connected to the Internet, for enabling data exchange.")

(see column 7 lines 42-62, "... the high-capacity flash ROM 25 enables the change of the program. That is, a wash-related program suitable for the user can be downloaded based on the data uploaded from the corresponding user, or the predetermined program can be changed. For example, if a newly married couple has a baby and the laundry includes diapers and so on, the existing washing process cannot perform a sanitary washing of a level that the user requires. Thus, it is preferable to change the program or system data so that the rinsing process of the existing washing program is strengthened through a software provided from the manufacturer or a service man, or to newly add a sanitation-oriented washing program for washing the diapers. At this time, the downloading and change of the program or system data is performed in a manner that the service man or the user directly connects his PC to the washing machine through the interface section 26; and downloads a specified program from the data of the PC itself or through the Internet, or changes the pre-stored program.")

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the programmable appliance taught by the Gardner reference to include the interface section taught by the Cho reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the programmable appliance to include the interface section to provide for changing system data that allows a user to identify problems with the product itself, installation, problems due to regional characteristics, changes in use, and the like, and to change system operation data accordingly.

11. Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1 to Gardner in view of US Pub. No. 2002/0040505 A1 to Tanaka et al.

As per claim 17, the Gardner reference does not expressly disclose further comprising a network for connecting between said transmitter means and said receiver means.

The Tanaka et al. reference discloses

(see page 2 [0034], "The household electric appliances 1 to 6 are connected via the home LAN 7 to the home terminal 8 serving as a laundry appliance control

device in the invention. The home terminal 8 communicates via the home LAN 7 with each of the foregoing household electric appliances. The home terminal 8 further accesses via the Internet 9 to the Web server 10 and transmits and receives an electronic mail. The home LAN 7 is constructed by the wireless communication by means of Echonet, Ethernet or Bluetooth or-the infrared communication.")

(see page 2 [0038], "Based on the received washing information and operation program of the washer-drier, the home terminal 8 adjusts the contents of the operation executed by the washer-drier 1. Accordingly, the control circuit 27 and external network communication section 28 function as washing information inputting means. The control circuit 27 functions as adjusting means and rewriting means.")

(see page 4 [0048], "The operation program received from the home terminal 8 is stored on the memory 30 of the home terminal 8. Thereafter, the home terminal 8 adjusts the operation program of the washer-drier 1 on the basis of the program stored on the memory 30.")

(see page 5 [0053], "The home terminal 8 then receives the latest operation program via the Internet 9 from the Web server 10 (step S6), transmitting the

received operation program to the washer-drier 1 (step S7). As a result, the operation program stored on the flash memory 23 is replaced by the latest one.”)

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the programmable appliance taught by the Gardner reference with the information providing means externally accessible via a communication network taught by the Tanaka et al. reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the programmable appliance with information providing means externally accessible via a communication network to transmit information about washing via the communication network and a laundry appliance control device including communication means for receiving the washing information transmitted via the communication network from the information providing means and adjusting means for adjusting the operation program of the laundry appliance on the basis of the washing information received by the communication means.

As per claim 18, the Tanaka et al. reference discloses said network (see page 2 [0034], “home LAN 7”) comprises a wireless network (“wireless communication”).

As per claim 19, the Tanaka et al. reference discloses said transmitter means (see page 2 [0034], “home terminal 8”) and said receiver means (see page 2



[0038], "washer-drier 1") makes a communication of the information representing the specifications of said special operating program based on the ECHONET Standard (see page 2 [0034], "Echonet").

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Crystal J. Barnes whose telephone number is 571.272.3679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday alternate Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571.272.3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



CJB

26 September 2006